

Children's Story – You Are God's Treasure

Matthew 13:44-50

Advance preparation: Prepare a "treasure" for each child. Print the phrase You are God's treasure on a piece of paper. Place it in tissue paper or soft fabric with a glass gem or bead. Tie it closed with ribbon.

Supplies: bag of coins, container and pearl or gem wrapped in special paper or fabric; "treasure" for each child: tissue paper or soft fabric, beads or glass gems, ribbon.

Imagine we have come to a grassy hillside to listen to Jesus. Jesus loved to tell stories called parables. Today we hear one of these parables. Have you ever found something very special? Maybe you were digging in a sandbox and found a lost toy. How did you feel?

One day Jesus told this parable: God's way of living is like a special treasure hidden in a field. When a worker finds the treasure he is so happy. He gives everything he has (*drop coins into a container*) to buy the field because it means so much to him. He wants the treasure more than anything else.

(Pause.)

Jesus told another parable: God's way of living is also like a storeowner who travels around looking for wonderful pearls and gems to buy (*make looking motion with hand over eyes*). When she finally finds a valuable pearl (*find and unwrap pearl*), she sells everything she has (*shake coins in container*) for that one pearl. She wants that special pearl because it is so precious (*hold the pearl close to your heart*). God's way of living is worth everything. God's love is like a wonderful treasure. God's love is precious to us.

Pray: Thank you, God, for your love, a precious treasure. May we find great joy in following you. Amen.

Bless the children with these words as you send them and give them their "treasure": (child's name), you are God's precious treasure.

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